(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what is the likely import bill during the current financial year;

(d) what are the reasons for rise in imports; and

(e) wliat action is being taken to curb the imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item refers to growth in imports of 1.5 per cent and growth in exports of 24.6 per cent during the 1st Quarter of the current financial year over the corresponding period of last year.

(c) It would be difficult at this stage to assess precisely the import bill for the whole year.

(d) and (e) The rise in imports of 1.5 per cent is marginal. However, the Import Policy is under constant review so as to avoid unnecessary imports.

Closure of handloom units in Maharashtra

1367. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the closure of hand-looms units in Maharashtra has led to decrease in handloom exports and increased unemployment; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the nandloom units had suffered a set back due to inadequate support and marketing infrastructure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) According to information supplied by Government of Maharashtra, there were only 498 looms in Maharashtra meant for production of exportable varieties of handloom products. Out of these only 177 looms are functioning now. The closure of 321 looms, although substantial as compared to the total looms for exports in Maharashtra, is rather insignificant when compared to the total handloom exports as also the total number of looms in the country.

(b) No, Sir. Handloom units had not suffered a set back due to inadequate support and marketing infrastructure but due to mismanagement and production of varieties which were not of exportable quality.

Re-opening of Hope Textile Mills Indore

1368. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to reopen Hope Textile Mill at Indore which is lying closed since a long time, so as to provide employment to about a thousand workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): The Textile Policy of June, 1985 states that where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no alternative but to allow the unit to close down provided the interests of labour are fully protected. A Nodal Agency has been set up under the Textile Policy of June, 1985 to examine the viability or otherwise of sick textile units and to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in. respect of those units which are found to be potentially viable. The Nodal Agency in its meeting held on 7.7.86 has come to the conclusion that Hope Textiles. Indore is non-viable.

Sale of Janata cloth in black market

1369. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received complaints to the effect that Janata cloth earmarked for the poor was

sold in black in the open market at various places;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No specific reports have been received by Government of India to the effect that Janata cloth earmarked for the poor have been sold in black in the open market at various places.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India have issued detailed guidelines in June, 1985 calling upon the State Governments implementing Janata cloth scheme to make adequate arrangements to ensure procurement of only genuine handloom cloth under the scheme and its distribution to the eligible consumers by *inter-atia* providing a vigilance machinery for the purpose or by strengthening the existing machinery.

Representation from Riot Victims Association regarding payment of bank loans

1370. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA;
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that November '84 Riot Victims Association has written to the Ministry of Finance (Banking! Division) on 25th August, 1986, 9th September, 1986 and 27th September, 1986 requesting therein that riot victims should not be harrassed by the bank managements for recovery of bank loans and interest thereon from them till their cases for payment of compensation are finally disposed of by the Government as their establishments were not insured; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon to remove the hardships being faced by the riot victims as they are finding it difficut to arrange repayment of loans and interest thereon due to insufficient loans and less returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The said representations were referred to Reserve Bank of India. Reserve Bank of India have reported that it had already issued guidelines to banks for providing various credit facilities on concessional terms to the affected persons for repairs|re-construction of their demaged houses, continuing, re-establishing production, business and occupation such as taxi, truck, auto-rickshaw and other small transport operators, small industrial units, retail trade, conversion and rescheduling of existing loans, grant of fresh advances at concesional rate of interest, waiver of margin requirement in respect of advances upto Rs. 1 lakh, non-insistance of collateral security I third party guarantee for loans upto Rs. 25,000|-, speedy clearance of 'loan proposals, prompt disbursement of loans etc. The above liberal facilities by banks have been provided as a very special case due to the extra-ordinary circumstances of November, 1984 disturbances.

As regards insurance claims, the banks have been advised to make need based credit requirements of the affected units, without taking into account the insurance claims expected to be received in case assets were insured. However, the insurance claim amounts, when received, should be credited to the loan accounts of the borrower concerned. Reserve Bank of India have not received any complaints or representations regarding harassment of riot victims by bank management. However, specific complaints, if any, could be taken up with the concerned bank for remedial measures. Relief in. the repayment of bank loans can be considered on the merits of each individual case.